

REMARKS

With the entry of the above amendment, Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 10-12, 14-18, 21-29, and 32-38 are pending. Claims 3, 7-9, 13, 19, 20, 30, 31, and 39-41 stand canceled.

Claims 1, 29, and 34 are the pending independent claims. Claims 2, 4-6, 10-12, 14-18, 21-28, 33, and 35-38 are the pending dependent claims.

In the amendment above, Claims 2, 5, 10, 11, 18, 21, and 29 are amended, and Claims 3, 30, and 31 are canceled in the amendment above. With the exception of Claim 29, all of the amended claims are dependent claims. That is, Claim 29 is the only amended independent claim, and it is amended merely by the addition of the features recited in Claims 30 and 31, now canceled. Provided below are Applicants' comments concerning the reason for each of the amendments presented hereinabove.

Dependent Claim 2 is amended by the deletion of the process feature that the first and second flat films are "heated while they are in contact with one another". This feature is being deleted because it may not be clear how this language further limits the recitation in Claim 1 that the heating is carried out while the first and second flat films are heated while being passed together in partial wrap around the heated roller. As such, the clarity of the difference between Claims 1 and 2 is improved.

Dependent Claim 3 is canceled because it is believed to be difficult to simultaneously bring the first and second films together at the same point that one of the films contacts the heated roller.

Dependent Claim 5 is amended by changing "cooling roll" to ---cooling roller---. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification at, for example, line 2 of Paragraph 18, on Page 10 of the specification.

Dependent Claim 10 is amended to recite the second *roll* as the second *roller*, in order that the claims are consistent in using the same term to refer to the same kind of apparatus element. This simply makes the claims more easily read and understood. The specification contains the phrase "second roll" at, for example, Paragraph 12, line 5, on Page 5 of the specification. However, Applicants contend that this is support for insertion of the word "roller", to improve the readability of the claims and to keep similar features similarly expressed in the claims. Similarly, in Claim 10 the phrase "first roll" has been changed to ---heated roller---. This is consistent with the antecedent basis provided in Claim 1, which recites the phrase "heated roller".

Dependent Claim 18 is amended by the addition of the recitation that it is the "release coating" which has on the cooling roller which provides a Shore A hardness of from 40 to 100. Support for this amendment can be found in Paragraph 41, lines 8-9, on Page 18 of the specification.

Dependent Claim 21 is amended by reciting the roller having the patterned raised surface as the "heated roller", which is consistent with the "heated roller" phrase in Claim 1. Claim 21 is also amended by deletion of the redundant recitation of the roller as being "heated".

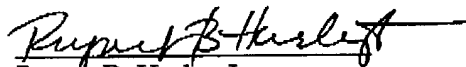
Independent Claim 29 is amended by inclusion of the recitations of canceled Claims 30 and 31, as already stated above. This amendment is being made to further differentiate independent Claim 29 from independent Claim 1.

The amendments to the allowed claims contain no new matter. Furthermore, the amendments to the claims do not change the relationship between the claimed invention and the prior art previously applied against the claims, i.e., Applicants contend that these amendments to the claims require no new search. Finally, the amendments to the claims do not change the applicability of the

various statements of Reasons for Allowance to the claims, these reasons being set forth in the Notice of Allowance mailed 24 February 2004.

Applicants respectfully request entry of the above amendments to the claims, with a view towards maintaining the Notice of Allowance and forwarding the claims, as amended, to the Issue Branch for issuance in accordance with the Notice of Allowance mailed 24 February 2004.

Respectfully Submitted,



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